

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

By

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***Presented before the Reclamation Board in Sacramento, California on December 15, 2006**

WATER CONDITIONS

On December 1, Water Year 2007 (October 1, 2006 through November 30, 2006) statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 60% of average to date; runoff, 65% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 120% for the date. During November, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index had 5.6" of precipitation, which was 89% of average for the month, 66% of the seasonal average to date on November 30, and 12% of average Water Year (50.0").

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 11/30/2006 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2005 - 2006 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2006 - 2007
Eureka	8.12	85	10.37	109	21
Redding	4.14	59	4.84	70	12
Sacramento	1.24	31	1.15	28	6
San Jose	1.79	60	0.56	19	11
Fresno	0.31	15	0.26	13	2
Bakersfield	0.31	28	0.48	43	4
Los Angeles	0.50	27	1.86	99	3
San Diego	0.96	52	0.69	38	8

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 11/30/2006 midnight								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,749	1,614	108	2,448	71	---	699
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,127	2,777	113	4,552	69	-125	1,425
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,680	2,192	122	3,538	76	-483	858
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	655	523	125	966	68	-141	311
Folsom Lake	American	488	467	104	977	50	-89	489
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,994	1,318	151	2,420	82	24	426
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,598	1,311	122	2,030	79	-92	432
Lake McClure	Merced	645	450	143	1,025	63	-30	380
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	253	218	116	520	49	-183	267
Pine Flat Res	Kings	435	376	116	1,000	43	-184	565
Isabella	Kern	226	150	150	568	40	56	342
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,651	1,247	132	2,039	81	---	388

The latest National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather forecast maps for December, issued November 30, suggest average precipitation for Northern and Central California. The CPC expects above average precipitation for Southern California, as well as the American Southwest. The CPC forecasts average temperatures for all of California.

On November 16, the CPC released its Final Winter Outlook (December, January, and February seasonal forecast) for the United States. This outlook continues to forecast temperatures to be warmer than the 30-year norm (1971-2000) over much of the nation, yet cooler than last year's very warm winter season. The CPC expects that parts of Northern California are to have above average temperatures, and the rest of the State is to have average temperatures. The precipitation outlook calls for wetter than average

conditions for central and southern California, and for the American Southwest. The outlook calls for Northern California to have average precipitation.

The pattern of the Winter Outlook is influenced by the continuing development of El Niño conditions (warmer than average sea-surface temperatures) across the tropical Pacific. Current conditions suggest that El Niño conditions may continue into the spring of 2007. El Niño events influence the position and strength of the jet stream over the Pacific Ocean, which in turn affects the winter precipitation and temperature patterns across the United States and other locations in the world.

EROSION REPAIR

A complete summary of erosion repair activities is shown on the attached spreadsheets. Brief summaries of the various programs are as follows:

- 2005 Critical Sites – under construction in 2006

The structural work for the original 29 critical erosion repair sites are complete. Four additional critical levee repair sites have been added to the previous 29 critical erosion repair sites projects. The four additional sites are:

DWR Repair Sites

Sacramento River 56.1 - Structural repairs completed

Sacramento River 43.3 - Structural repairs completed

Butte Creek 14 - Structural repairs completed

COE Repair Site

Sacramento 53.1 - Structural repairs completed.

Additional rock work has been recently identified at Sacramento River 32.5 and 43.3 and should be completed this month.

- 2006 Critical Sites to be constructed in 2007

Repairs to 2006 Ayres 24 critical erosion sites are being done in two phases. The first phase includes an underwater rock toe building. The above water rip-rap protection will be completed in Phase 2 during spring and will probably continue in summer, 2007. The Phase 2 repairs will also include on-site mitigation measures

Coordination between the regulatory agencies, the Corps and DWR is being done through mutually agreed upon Action Plan for Alternative Endangered Species Consultation Procedures for the State-Federal expedited repairs during winter. A Technical Team with representatives from the Corps, DWR and the regulatory agencies; US F&WS, NMFS and DFG, is reviewing and approving

repair designs and mitigation plans for both the PL84-99 and the 24 Critical Erosion sites.

Out of the ten DWR sites, four sites are under construction, four are in-design stage and two sites on Cache Creek are being addressed using temporary measures consisting of material stockpiling for interim flood protection during winter. The final design for the two setback levees along Cache Creek will be ready by February 2007, and will allow construction next summer. Construction contracts for the fourteen sites being repaired by Corps are scheduled for award during December with repairs to commence in January 2007.

- 2006 PL84-99 Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Progress on the design and construction of 71 sites damaged during the January/April 2006 floods is as follows:

Sites	Lead Agency	In-Design	Under Construction	Construction Complete
Order 1	Corps	10	4	5
	DWR	1	4	3
	BALMD	13		
Order 2	Corps	3	-	1
	DWR	-	2	1
		27	10	10

The repair of six sites in the Lower San Joaquin Levee District (two on the San Joaquin River and four on the Chowchilla Bypass) is an interim measure to fix waterside damage with temporary impervious material blanket to make it safe during winter and permanent repairs would be done during late spring.

The DWR in coordination with Corps is also considering application of non-structural alternatives such as creating conservation areas for the remaining Order 2, 3, 4 and 5 sites eligible under the PL84-99 Rehabilitation Assistance Program.

LEVEE EVALUATIONS

1. Drilling operations commenced the week of 11/7/06 in West Sacramento (west end of the Sacramento Bypass) and Marysville (along the Yuba River/Hwy 20 just east of the city).
2. Drilling operations commenced the week of 12/4/06 in RD 17 on the San Joaquin River near Howard Road.

3. The first meeting of an independent consulting board comprised of George Sills (USACE), Ray Seed, and Chris Grozes (Shannon and Wilson) is scheduled for 12/6/06.
4. A Letter of Agreement with USACE was signed by Rod Mayer last week. This allows for their participation in reviewing our levee evaluation efforts and providing copies of existing levee data.
5. A large media event for the kickoff of the levee evaluations occurred on 11/30/06.

DWR LAND USE POLICIES

See attached letter to Honorable Heather Fargo signed by Lester Snow dated November 21, 2006.

INTERAGENCY FLOOD MANAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM (IFMCP)

The Management Group met on November 15, 2006. A summary of topics discussed is as follows:

1. Erosion and Flood Damage Repairs

Mike Inamine indicated that 71 critical levee repairs would be undertaken this fall and winter, with work on 8 sites starting immediately. These include 40 PL-8499 Urban sites, 24 Ayres/USACE critical erosion sites, and 7 rural PL-8499 sites with high benefit/cost ratios. An additional 341 sites are being deferred to next year's construction season. Where sites are being deferred, provisions are being made for flood fighting as necessary to protect the levees through the rainy season

2. Small Site Erosion Repairs

Regarding small erosion repair actions, Al Romero gave a slide show of what has been done in the past, with pre-repair photos, newly repaired photos, and what the sites looked like after 7 to 10 years. In many cases, willows and other vegetation had grown up through the rock revetment, providing some habitat and some added resistance against wave wash erosion. There was group consensus that it makes sense to fix erosion sites when they are small, rather than waiting until the problem has become severe. The Collaborative Management Group is working on permitting procedures to simplify early repairs.

3. Vegetation Management

- USACE Levee Vegetation Management Policy Clarification – Jim Sandner of the Corps gave an update on a new policy issued by Corps Headquarters as a result of the Katrina Hurricane in New Orleans. If the

policy holds, the Corps will be much more strict on not allowing trees within the structural profile of levees---nothing over 2-inches would be allowed. Any maintaining agency found to have non-compliant vegetation would be put on notice that it is no longer eligible for PL 84-99 reimbursement. This policy raises a number of issues related to Endangered Species Act compliance, specific conditions where the vegetation may not be a problem. The Sacramento Office of the Corps has raised these issues with their Washington headquarters and is waiting for answers before implementing the new policy.

- VELB in the Floodway (Update) – Dan Ray briefed the Management Group on the latest developments on this topic. He and some of his staff met with USFWS last month to find out about de-listing. The Service explained the required public process that will take a minimum of two years, with no guarantee it will happen at all. Meanwhile, the group continues to work on ways to allow elderberries in the floodplain with assurances from USFWS that they can be maintained as necessary for flood system levee and channel maintenance.
- 4. Working Toward a Regional General Permit – Dan Ray explained that he has begun work on a new Corps 404 permit that will encompass more of the maintenance actions DWR needs to do to keep the flood system working properly than any of the existing Corps general or nationwide permits. He passed out an assessment by Jones & Stokes that describes current responsibilities of DWR to comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (fill in waters of the U.S.) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (protection of navigable waterways).

LEGISLATION

Senator Machado, Assembly Member Wolk, and Assembly Member Jones each introduced legislation recently to get the 30 day clock rolling for bills so that they had priority for a hearing. In reality, these bills won't be heard until sometime in March. While the bills are merely place holders for now, the bills would do the following:

SB 5 (Machado) makes findings and declarations about establishing a comprehensive integrated flood policy that addresses all aspects of flood management and states the intent of the Legislature to establish and clarify the roles and responsibilities of specified entities for managing flood risk and to invest bond funds made available by Props 1E and 84.

AB 5 (Wolk) would require an unspecified entity to create the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan to address flood protection in the Central Valley and would authorize local agencies to create a local plan of flood protection and ensuring those plans are completed to get priority for bond funds.

AB 70 (Jones) would subject cities and counties to joint liability regardless of whether the city or county directly participates in the operation and maintenance of a flood control project, in cases where property damage sustained in a flood was the result of a city or county approving a new development in an undeveloped area that is protected by a project levee, where flood levels are anticipated to exceed 3 feet for a 200-year flood event.